

RYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

Gateshead-on-Tyne:

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1903.

RYTON-ON-TYNE,

15TH JANUARY, 1904.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ryton Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith lay before you my Annual Report for the year, 1903.

POPULATION.—Seeing that for the years 1902 and 1903 the number of births exceeded that of deaths by 400, and allowing for the number of new houses erected since the census of 1901, I think that the estimate of the population at 9,200 is at anyrate not an under estimate and I have adopted it in calculating the statistics for the year.

BIRTHS.—The number of births is 313 :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1st quarter ..	41	25	66
2nd „ ..	43	34	77
3rd „ ..	60	38	98
4th „ ..	34	38	72
	<hr/> 178	<hr/> 135	<hr/> 313

This gives AN ANNUAL BIRTH-RATE OF 34·02 per 1,000. A lower birth-rate than that for the previous year, which was 37·9, and under the birth-rate for the County, which for the year is 35·6, and the mean for 10 years 35·6.

The following table gives the number of births and birth-rate for the 5 preceding years.

In 1898, number of births 272, birth-rate 35·63.

„ 1899,	„	278,	„	35·09.
„ 1900,	„	266,	„	32·2.
„ 1901,	„	272,	„	32.
„ 1902,	„	332,	„	37·9.
„ 1903,	„	313,	„	34·02.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths for the year was 142, representing an annual death-rate of 15·43 per 1000, which, though higher than the rate for the previous year at 12·57, compares favourably with the County rate for the year 17·7, which is slightly higher than for the previous year, 16·6, though not as high as the mean County rate for 10 years, which is 18·2.

Comparison with the last 5 years can be seen from the following table.

Deaths and death-rate for the last 6 years:—

1898...Number of deaths 135, death-rate 17·68.

1899...	„	120,	„	15·14.
1900...	„	128,	„	15·49.
1901...	„	134,	„	15·75.
1902...	„	110,	„	12·57.
1903...	„	142,	„	15·43.

The following table shows the ages at death:—

		Under 1 year.		Under 5 years.		Over 5 years.		Total.
1st quarter	...	11	...	3	...	16	...	30
2nd „	...	11	...	1	...	20	...	32
3rd „	...	10	...	8	...	18	...	36
4th „	...	15	...	7	...	22	...	44
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		47		19		76		142

The important point in this table is the number of deaths of children under 1 year, to the total, being 33·09 per cent. and giving an annual mortality rate, per 1000 births, of 150·16. By comparing this infant mortality rate with previous years, as seen by the following table, it will be found that though comparing unfavourably with last year it is better than previous years and better than the County rate, 161; which is unfavourable to that of 1902, at 139, though better than the mean of the preceding 10 years, at 165.

Infant mortality rate for the last 6 years:—

			Per 1000 births.	
1898	...	Number of deaths under 1 year, 40; rate, 147.		
1899	...	„ „ 42; „ 151.		
1900	...	„ „ 43; „ 161·65.		
1901	...	„ „ 52; „ 184·19.		
1902	...	„ „ 33; „ 99·09.		
1903	...	„ „ 47; „ 150·16.		

CAUSES OF DEATH:—		Under 1 year.		Under 5 years.		Over 5 years.		Total.
Measles ...	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Scarlet Fever ...	...	0	...	4	...	0	...	4
Enteric Fever ...	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	2
Influenza ...	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1
Whooping Cough	1	...	0	...	0	...	1	1
Diphtheria ...	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1
Diarrhœa ...	...	4	...	1	...	0	...	5
Phthisis...	...	0	...	0	...	9	...	9
Bronchitis ...	...	3	...	0	...	0	...	3
Pneumonia ...	...	4	...	5	...	4	...	13
Heart Disease ...	...	1	...	0	...	10	...	11
Rheumatism ...	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	2
Injuries ...	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	5
Other Causes ...	...	34	...	5	...	46	...	85
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		47		15		80		142

CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATH:—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	5
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...			12
Heart Disease...	...	...	1
Other Causes ...	...	...	39
			<hr/>
			62

Zymotic disease therefore caused 5 deaths of children under 5 years of age; Respiratory Diseases, 12; and Diarrhœa, 5.

Comparison with former years is as follows:—

		Zymotic Disease.		Respiratory Disease.		Diarrhœa.
1898	..	11	..	14	..	21
1899	..	8	..	12	..	13
1900	..	4	..	15	..	6
1901	..	12	..	7	..	17
1902	..	9	..	7	..	3
1903	..	5	..	12	..	5

The total mortality for Zymotic disease, at all ages, is as follows:—

Scarlet Fever ..	..	4
Enteric Fever ..	..	2
Whooping Cough ..	..	1
Diphtheria ..	..	1
		<hr/>
		8

The ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE is the comparatively low one of '86 per 1,000, as against 1'48 per 1,000 during 1902, and much below the County rate of 2'01.

ZYNOTIC DEATH-RATE FOR THE LAST 6 YEARS:—

		Zymotic Deaths.		Rate per 1,000.		Mortality per cent.
1898	..	13	..	1'9	..	9'85
1899	..	11	..	1'29	..	9'16
1900	..	4	..	0'47	..	3'12
1901	..	18	..	2'11	..	13'43
1902	..	13	..	1'48	..	11'8
1903	..	8	..	'86	..	5'6

It is to be noted that the death-rate from Measles is 0, that for the County being 0'32.

The death-rate from Scarlet Fever 0'43, that of County 0'25.

The death-rate from Enteric Fever 0'21, that of County 0'12.

The death-rate from Whooping Cough 0'10, that of County 0'24.

The death-rate from Diphtheria 0'10, that of County 0'29.

The death-rate from Diarrhœa is again favourable as compared to former years, being 0'54, while the County rate is 0'73, the comparatively small death-rate being again due to the cold and damp summer and autumn through which we have passed.

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES in 1903 and and former years:—

		Bronchitis and Pneumonia.		Rate.		Phthisis.		Rate.
1898	..	28	..	3'6	..	10	..	1'31
1899	..	20	..	2'5	..	3	..	0'37
1900	..	28	..	2'29	..	12	..	1'4
1901	..	16	..	1'88	..	5	..	0'58
1902	..	15	..	1'48	..	3	..	0'34
1903	..	16	..	1'73	..	9	..	0'97

The death-rate from Respiratory Diseases at 1·73 stands favourably with that for the County at 3·02, as does also the Phthisis death-rate 0·97 against the County rate 1·09, though it is not so favourable as that of the two preceding years.

DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASE, 11 in number, give a rate of 1·19, comparing favourably with 1902, when the number was 16 and the rate 1·82.

PUERPERAL FEVER has caused 1 death as against 2 during the previous year.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year there have been notified 247 cases of Infectious Disease. This exceeds by 32 the number for the previous year, and comparison with former years is shewn in the following table:—

In 1898 the number of cases notified was 61.

1899	,,	,,	107.
1900	,,	,,	69.
1901	,,	,,	203.
1902	,,	,,	215.
1903	,,	,,	247.

The following table shews the varieties of Infectious Disease and the number of cases of each:—

	Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.	Total.
Scarlet Fever ..	96 ..	120 ..	216
Typhoid Fever ..	0 ..	8 ..	8
Diphtheria ..	2 ..	6 ..	8
Puerperal Fever..	0 ..	1 ..	1
Erysipelas ..	1 ..	13 ..	14
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 99	<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 148	<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 247

It is interesting to compare the number and varieties of Infectious Disease for previous years:—

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Scarlet Fever ..	32 ..	42 ..	34 ..	175 ..	186 ..	216
Typhoid „ ..	20 ..	40 ..	14 ..	5 ..	6 ..	8
Continued „ ..	2 ..	2 ..	4 ..	5 ..	2 ..	0
Diphtheria ..	0 ..	12 ..	10 ..	14 ..	17 ..	8
Puerperal Fever	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	2 ..	1
Erysipelas ..	7 ..	11 ..	7 ..	4 ..	2 ..	14

SCARLET FEVER.—From the above it will be seen that, as in previous years, this disease is the cause of the increase in the number of Infectious cases. Its distribution during year is as follows:—

January .. 10	April .. 10	July .. 33	October 36
February 10	May .. 21	August .. 26	November 20
March .. 1	June .. 13	September 33	December 3

Thus during the 1st quarter there were 21 cases.

„	2nd	„	44	„
„	3rd	„	92	„
„	4th	„	59	„

The greater number of cases is thus shown to have occurred in the third quarter of the year and it will be noticed the marked diminution of cases during the month of December. The cases have been fairly equally distributed over all parts of the district and no district has been free from it. The continuing prevalence of the disease, for three years now, is to be accounted for by the usual causes, the want of realization on the part of parents of the infectious nature of the disease, and of its seriousness, the mildness of many of the cases, and the consequent want of care in their isolation, and the want of an Isolation Hospital. Considering the number of cases, 216; the mortality (4 cases) is small and indicates the generally mild type of the disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—8 cases occurred, with 2 fatalities; giving a death-rate of 0·2, the County rate being 0·12. Four of the cases were in the West District, 2 at Clara Vale and 2 at Addison. The cases had no apparent connection with each other and were evidently due to local causes.

DIPHTHERIA.—The 8 cases show a diminution as compared with the previous 5 years, and the mortality, 1, is fairly good, giving a rate of 0·1 as against a County rate of 0·29. 4 of the cases occurred at Clara, 2 at Stargate in the same house, 1 at Crookhill, and 1 at Greenside.

In regard to the treatment of Diphtheria, there can be no doubt as to the marked efficiency of the Antitoxin treatment and its superiority over every other method. In every case, therefore, it should be adopted as soon as the nature of the disease is recognised, so that the mortality may be reduced to a minimum. This can only be done, however, by the Sanitary Authority supplying the remedy, which is somewhat expensive, especially in those serious cases where several doses of the most potent serum is necessary. There are, I believe, several districts now in which the public Authority provide the remedy, and I would again suggest that your Council should, in the public interest, do likewise.

It is worthy of notice that there has been no fatality from Measles during the year, and that the district has been comparatively free from it.

It is also matter for satisfaction that the district has kept free from Small-pox.

GENERAL

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK IN 1903.

GENERAL.—The usual systematic inspection for the prevention and detection of nuisances has been carried out. Disinfectants have been supplied, and houses and schools disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY.—The consumption of water in the district, including all trade and sanitary purposes, has been at the average rate of 12·44 gallons per head per day, estimated on the population of 7,960 supplied by the Council. The quantity supplied during the year was 36,153,000 gallons, viz.: Chopwell water 15,449,000 gallons; Whittle Dene water, 20,704,000 gallons.

SEWERAGE.—Some small sewer extensions have been carried out. The extraordinary rainfall in October caused an old sewer, at Addison, to burst. This is now being replaced by a new sewer of greater dimensions. The sewers have been regularly flushed, cleansed and disinfected.

HOSPITAL.—There seems likely to be considerable delay in the provision of a permanent isolation hospital. This is due to the extraordinary action of the County Council which has given notice to the district Council not to proceed with the erection of the hospital which they had proposed, for which they had, after great and prolonged difficulty, succeeded in procuring a site, and for which they had

prepared and adopted plans for a permanent brick hospital, which were approved by the County Medical Officer of Health. The County Council now wish to enforce the districts of Whickham, Blaydon and Ryton to combine together and to erect a joint hospital for the three districts. This order is being appealed against, but in the meantime the erection of the hospital is being seriously delayed. The temporary iron Small-pox hospital, erected in 1902, has been maintained in readiness for use, but has fortunately not been required.

BACK STREETS.—Some of the back streets are still in need of attention. Amongst the worst are those at Addison, Stella Haughs and Hedgefield Cottages, and worst of all Northumberland Road which is a scandal to the district.

OPEN SPACES.—In several cases considerable sanitary improvement would be effected by the requirement by the Council of the paving or cementing of the yards and open spaces of houses where some sufficient covering of the same is not provided. Probably the worst examples are at Algernon Terrace and Norman Street.

By the kindness of the Surveyor I am able to present the tabular statement of the work done in the Inspector's department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES W. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' DEPARTMENT.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				Number of informal Written Notices by Inspector.	Number of formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—						
Structural Defects..				0	2	2
Slaughter-houses				0	1	1
Ashpits and Privies.. ..				36	2	38
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ..				13	1	10
Waterclosets.. ..				2	0	1
Defective Yard Paving				1	1	0
House Drainage				13	0	13
Animals Improperly Kept.. ..				0	1	1
Other Nuisances				1	0	1
Totals				66	8	67

II.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	9
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	5

JOHN P. DALTON,
Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLES.

Vital Statistics for the Whole District during 1903 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under one year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents register'd in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.		Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Number.	Rate.*		10	11	Number.	Rate.*
1		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1894..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1895..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1896 .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1897..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1898..	7633	272	35.03	40	147.	135	17.68	..	..	..	135	17.68
1899..	7922	278	35.09	42	151.01	120	15.14	..	..	..	120	15.14
1900 ..	8260	266	32.2	43	161.65	128	15.49	..	..	..	128	15.49
1901..	8500	272	32.	52	184.19	134	15.75	..	..	3	137	16.1
1902..	8750	332	37.9	33	99.09	109	12.45	..	..	1	110	12.57
Averages for years 1893-1902												
1903	9200	313	34.02	47	150.16	142	15.43	..	..	3	145	15.76

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the District or Division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—5,149.

Total population at all ages	8,448	At
Number of inhabited houses	1,640	Census of
Average number of persons per house	5.15	1901.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1903.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwds
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	8	..	2	6	..	..	..
Membranous Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	14	1	..	2	6	5	..
Scarlet Fever	216	6	90	84	35	1	..
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	8	..	..	3	2	3	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals . . .	247	7	92	95	43	10	..

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	4	..	4	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Croup .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric	2	..	..	1	..	1	..
{ Other Continued .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	5	4	1	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	8	7	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	9	..	..	1	2	6	..
Other Tubercular Diseases	9	4	1	1	1	2	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	..	..	..	..	6	4
Bronchitis	3	3	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	13	4	5	..	..	1	3
Pleurisy	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal Diseases.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	8	8	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	11	1	..	..	..	4	6
Accidents	5	..	..	1	..	3	1
Suicides .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	49	14	6	6	5	10	8
All causes	142	47	19	10	8	35	23

